

New to Know
February 2010

The Office of Student Financial Assistance
Thanks all NT4CM Host Sites!

National Training for Mentors and Counselors (NT4CM)

The NT4CM onsite workshops were a great success! Onsite NT4CM workshops were offered November through January at strategic locations throughout Florida.

OSFA would like to take this opportunity to thank the following host sites for their wonderful hospitality:

Central Florida Community College, Indian River State College, Keiser University (WPB), Panhandle Area Education Consortium, Pensacola Junior College, Pinellas School District, Professional Training Center, Seminole State College, Tallahassee Community College

NT4CM workshops are designed for guidance counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. All workshop sessions are free and include up-to-date information for students and their families regarding federal and state student financial aid programs, college early awareness/planning, the FAFSA4caster, financial literacy resources, and conducting financial aid nights. Participants learn how to access free workshop resources such as fact sheets, brochures, and PowerPoint presentations which are helpful in communicating the availability of financial aid to students. For more information and registration details on the upcoming NT4CM webinars please review page 4. Should you have questions, please e-mail OSFA.

Online Defaulted Borrower Counseling

An online counseling tool is available to reach your defaulted borrowers. This module reviews:

- Student loan rights and responsibilities
- Options available after defaulting on a student loan
- How to communicate with collection agencies
- How to manage/improve credit with a defaulted loan
- Credit report monitoring

To preview this online counseling module, go to our [Web site](#) and click “Online Counseling,” then select OSFA University from the drop-down menu. For institutional access, which provides your office with a confirmation of completion document for each student taking the module, please e-mail or contact Jan Smith at (850) 245-1822 or Jan.Smith@fldoe.org.

High School Financial Aid Workshops

Please remember that OSFA outreach representatives are available to assist you with disseminating information to high school seniors. As the academic year progresses, timing is essential in providing guidance to our seniors on federal, state, institutional, and private sources of financial aid. OSFA will be participating in many on-site high school activities to facilitate financial aid awareness and financial literacy workshops through the upcoming year. Please contact your OSFA Outreach Representative for additional information.

Don't Forget Reporting Deadlines

The deadline for Term 2 DERs—30 days after the end of the drop/add period—is fast approaching!

Florida Resident Access Grant

Term 2 DERs are due to OSFA by February 28.

Bright Futures Dropped/Withdrawn Hours Refunds

Term 1 Bright Futures refunds for dropped/withdrawn hours are due 30 days after the end of your term.

Florida Critical Teacher Shortage Programs

Please check your certification pages. OSFA is currently collecting certifications for the Critical Teacher Shortage Programs

Report degrees earned and/or certify courses taken for Florida teachers seeking Loan Forgiveness and/or Tuition Reimbursement.

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The *2010-11 Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students and Teachers* is available on the OSFA, State Programs [Web site](#).

NATIONAL TRAINING FOR COUNSELORS AND MENTORS (NT4CM) WEBINAR SESSIONS – FEBRUARY 2010

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) is proud to offer the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM): Funding Education Beyond High School webinars. These webinars are designed for guidance counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. Participants learn how to access free resources such as fact sheets, brochures, and PowerPoint presentations.

All webinars are free and include up-to-date information regarding early awareness/planning for college, the FAFSA4caster, federal and state student financial aid programs, and financial aid resources.

NT4CM WEBINAR SCHEDULE

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>
Early Awareness/Financial Aid Planning a.m.	February 16	10:00 – 11:00
p.m.	February 23	2:00 – 3:00
Overview of State & Institutional Financial Aid a.m.	February 17	10:00 – 11:00
p.m.	February 24	2:00 – 3:00
Federal Financial Aid Overview & Applying a.m.	February 18	10:00 – 11:30
for Federal Aid p.m.	February 25	2:00 – 3:30

REGISTRATION

To register, go to <https://suncom.webex.com>. Select **Training Center Tab**. In the Training Center, select the **Upcoming** tab. Find the session Date & Time and Topic that you want to attend. Choose **Register** and follow the onscreen prompts.

Note: The page numbers at the top and bottom of the page allow you to see more session dates and times.

You will need access to the Internet and a telephone to participate in these webinars.

Florida College System Celebrates Success

The Florida College System experienced a successful year in 2009, despite the state's budgetary challenges. Florida's Division of Community Colleges, officially titled the Division of Florida Colleges last year, led the nation's southeast region in graduation and progression rates as well as maintaining top ranks for leading America's more than 1,200 community colleges in an array of degree categories, which included: Total Associate Degrees, Number of Associate Degrees awarded to minorities, Degrees awarded to African-American students, Health Professions and Related Sciences Degrees, and Nursing, Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Students and Humanities Degrees.

Florida's Colleges continued to serve as the primary point of access to higher education in Florida, with 58 percent of the state's high school graduates pursuing postsecondary education beginning at a community college. Eighty-one percent of freshman and sophomore minority students in public higher education attend one of Florida's 28 community colleges. Last year also saw the creation of 16 new baccalaureate degree programs within seven Florida colleges, as approved by the State Board of Education, to address the growing economic challenges of communities throughout the state. Additionally, with the signing of the new GI Bill, Florida's colleges experienced a 76 percent increase in veteran enrollment.

Another merit for Florida's colleges, the caliber of students, also proved strong last year with 92 outstanding college students honored as members of the 2009 Phi Theta Kappa all-Florida Academic Team. Visit www.fldoe.org/cc for more information on the Florida College System's year of successes.

IRS Data Populating

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the implementation of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval process for initial and renewal web applications on the 2009-2010 FAFSA, beginning **January 28, 2010**. The IRS Data Retrieval process enables Title IV student aid applicants and parents of dependent applicants to transfer certain tax return information from an IRS Web site directly to their 2009-10 FAFSA web application. Visit the following [Web site](#) for an overview of the IRS Data Retrieval Process for the 2009-10 FAFSA.

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Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) Conference in

Louisville, Kentucky

February 21 - 24, 2010